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PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: GEL-US
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:)	Group Art Unit: 1639
S. Banerjee <i>et al.</i>)	
)	Examiner: N. Yang
Serial No.: 10/034,727)	
)	I hereby certify that, on the date indicated below,
Confirmation No.: 1379)	this correspondence was sent by fax to the
)	Commissioner for Patents, at (571) 273-8300.
Filed: 12/26/2001)	By: <u>Christopher R. Kihule</u>
)	Date: <u>3/9/06</u>
For: Directed Assembly of Functional Heterostructures)	

Preliminary Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop AF
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Rejection of 12/05/2005, please consider the following comments and amendments. Please enter the amended claims as set forth on the Claim Listing which follows the Remarks section.

Remarks

Claim 82 has been canceled, mooted the rejection under Section 112, para. 2.

The Examiner has rejected claims 82, 83, 85, 86, 89, and 91 under Section 102(e) as anticipated by Walt et al. Claim 82 has been canceled, and all claims now depend on newly added claim 92, which recites a method of forming a bead assembly in a polymer gel. Such a method is not disclosed or suggested in Walt et al., as stated at col. 17, line 35 et seq:

Microspheres 10 may then be fixed into the wells 250 by using a dilute solution of sulfonated Nafion that is dripped over the end. Upon solvent evaporation, a thin film of Nafion was formed over the microspheres which holds them in place. This